CLAIMS

1. A zoom lens comprising, in order from an object side to an image side, a first lens unit of negative refractive power and a second lens unit of positive refractive power, wherein variation of magnification is effected by varying a separation between said first lens unit and said second lens unit, said zoom lens satisfying the following conditions:

$$3 \leq NL1 \leq 4$$
$$NL2 \leq NL1$$

where NL1 and NL2 are numbers of lens elements which constitute said first lens unit and said second lens unit, respectively.

2. A zoom lens according to claim 1, wherein, when said number NL2 of lens elements is NL2= 1, the following condition is satisfied:

$$50 < \nu P$$

where νP is an Abbe number of a material of lens elements constituting said second lens unit.

3. A zoom lens according to claim 1, wherein, when said number NL2 of lens elements is NL2 = 2, said second lens unit consists of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens of bi-convex form and a negative lens having a concave surface of stronger refractive power facing the image side than that of an

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opposite surface thereof.

4. A zoom lens according to claim 1, wherein, when said number NL2 of lens elements is NL2 = 3, said second lens unit has a negative lens of meniscus form concave toward the image side.

5. A zoom lens according to claim 1, wherein said first lens unit consists of two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form and a negative lens having a concave surface facing the image side.

6. A zoom lens according to claim 1, wherein said first lens unit consists of two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side.

7. A zoom lens according to claim 1, wherein said first lens unit consists of two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, a negative lens of meniscus form

convex toward the object side and a positive lens of bi-convex form.

8. A zoom lens according to claim 1, wherein said first lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form and a negative lens having a concave surface facing the image side.

9. A zoom lens according to claim 1, where said first lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, a negative lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of bi-convex form.

10. A zoom lens according to claim 1, wherein said first lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, a

negative lens of bi-concave form and a positive lens of bi-convex form.

11.   A zoom lens according to claim 1, wherein said first lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form.

12.   A photographing apparatus comprising:

a zoom lens according to one of claims 1 to 11.

$Add\ a^2 >$ $add\ c^2$ $add\ D2$ $add\ E4$